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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Kovmost I Uranium Ore Pit

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25X1X

Location

1. Kovmost I is located two kilometers northwest of Jachymov, in an area 600 by 350 meters. The area, including the mine and the labor camp, is surrounded by a barbed wire fence 220 cm high. (The labor camp is fenced, on the road side, by a wooden fence, and on the other side by barbed wire). My information on this mine dates through mid Sept 53.

Administration and Personnel

2. "The mine employs 650 civilians, 20 of them women, who work at ore classification, in the pumping station and in the lamp depot. There are, in addition, about 1200 political prisoners working here who are serving sentences of more than five years. Most of the civilians are brigade workers who contracted to work in the mine six months; after the six months elapsed, they were forced to continue. The chief Soviet Engineer was (September 1953), Anna Muznecov, aged 45, about 170 cm tall, married, who lived with his wife at the Radium Palace Hotel. The chief Czech Engineer was Josef Kohn, aged 35, 170 cm tall, married, dark hair, wore glasses, [redacted]. The technical supervisor and Comptroller was Anton Kachilov, aged 35, 180 cm tall, brown hair, round face. The Shift master for the pit was Jan Pila, aged 40, 170 cm tall, brown hair, had teeth, married, two children.

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25X1A

- 2 -

Production

3. "The mine produces 60 tons of radioactive material daily, but only 200 tons of clean uranium ore per month. Clean uranium ore (smolka) is packed in wooden boxes 30 by 30 by 30 cm. The boxes are transported by Tatra III trucks to the central loading station in Horni Zdar, called OTK Horni Zdar. There they are inspected. In Horni Zdar the ore is ground in the uranium mills [sic], then floated, and loaded into iron barrels. The barrels are loaded onto rail cars and transported to the USSR. These transport trains are called Vertuska by the Soviets. The locomotive is always followed, immediately, by a civilian car carrying SNB guards. The last Vertuska of which I knew, leaving Horni Zdar for the USSR, left on 27 Sep 52. The train had 20 cars, each carrying 20 tons of ore.
4. "The Five Year Production plan was fulfilled (as of September 1953) 120% quantitatively, and 102% qualitatively, according to unofficial reports. The management does not allow the public the statistics because of security restrictions, and because if the qualitative percentage surpasses 108% the miners are entitled to bonuses.

Wages

5. The average miner working in accord [in a brigade] makes 2000 crowns a month (new currency). A miner belonging to the Communist Party nets 10,000 crowns a month. A foreman in charge of explosives (working on an hourly wage) makes 2300 crowns a month, net; a carpenter, working on the same basis makes 1600 crowns monthly; a mining foreman, also on hourly wage, nets 1700 crowns a month. The women workers, above ground, make 700 to 800 crowns a month. A shift master makes 3500 crowns monthly.

Security and Morale

6. The mine area is guarded by SNB guards from towers, which are 6 meters high, spaced 50 to 70 meters apart, and along the fence. There are always 20 guards on duty. Inside the mine there are two members of the workers' militia. Morale of the workers is poor, because of wages, and lack of confidence in the new currency.

Food, Lodging and Political Training

7. The food in the canteen is very poor. Most of the workers live in the enterprise houses at Jachymov. Political training is given once a fortnight, for one hour.

Mine Levels, Drifts, etc.

8. "The sheave of the head frame (2 by 4 meters) is 20 meters above the roof of the house. The shaft is 650 meters deep, with the first level at a depth of 200 meters. Ore is mined on the first level. There are about twelve levels being developed at 50 meter vertical intervals. Daniel level has the connecting drift with the Svornost mine. The 3rd, 6th, and 12th levels are also connected with the Daniel level. The 2nd and 3rd levels are connected by a drift to the Eduard mine. The 4th level is connected with the Eva mine; from this level there is a drift into the Soviet Zone of Germany; this was destroyed in 1945 by the blasting of some 40 meters of it. The 12th level is connected with the Elias and Svornost mines. The administration decided to extend the shaft to the thirtieth level from the 12th, but they found water and had to stop work here. So it was decided

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- 3 -

25X1A

to sink a new shaft from the 12th level, at a point 150 meters from the main shaft. In this new shaft there is a separate hoist with a separate hoist mechanism, and the mined ore is transported along the drift to Rovnost. In Rovnost I radioactive ore is transported only on the surface.

#### Electric Power

9. Electric power is provided by the power plants of Nová Ves and Kadan.

#### Diversions for Soviets Working at Rovnost I

10. The Soviet employees of Rovnost I reside in the former Hotel Praga, and the Radius Palace Hotel. These two hotels were formerly the most luxurious in Jachymov. The Soviet technicians and engineers usually rest, after work, in the Russian Cultural Center which opened on 1 May 52, and was built by slave labor from the uranium mining district. (Prisoners worked Sundays, and after their shift work was through. Even the architect who drew the plans for this project was a prisoner.) The Soviets usually play chess or billiards, and drink vodka, when they meet here. No civilians, Czechs, or even Czech Communist Party members are permitted to enter the Russian Cultural Center. The Soviet men usually are dressed in dark suits, dark hats, black ties. Soviet women usually wear light blue suits, black shoes and nylon stockings. Soviet women are prohibited from talking with Czech employees. (One Soviet woman, who did not obey this order and met a Czech friend, was forcibly sent back to the USSR). All Soviet employees, men and women drink a great deal; all have superiority complexes; all regard the Czech employees as the Nazi - Herrenvolk - did.

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Enclosure: (A) Sketch-map of Rovnost I Mine, with legend.

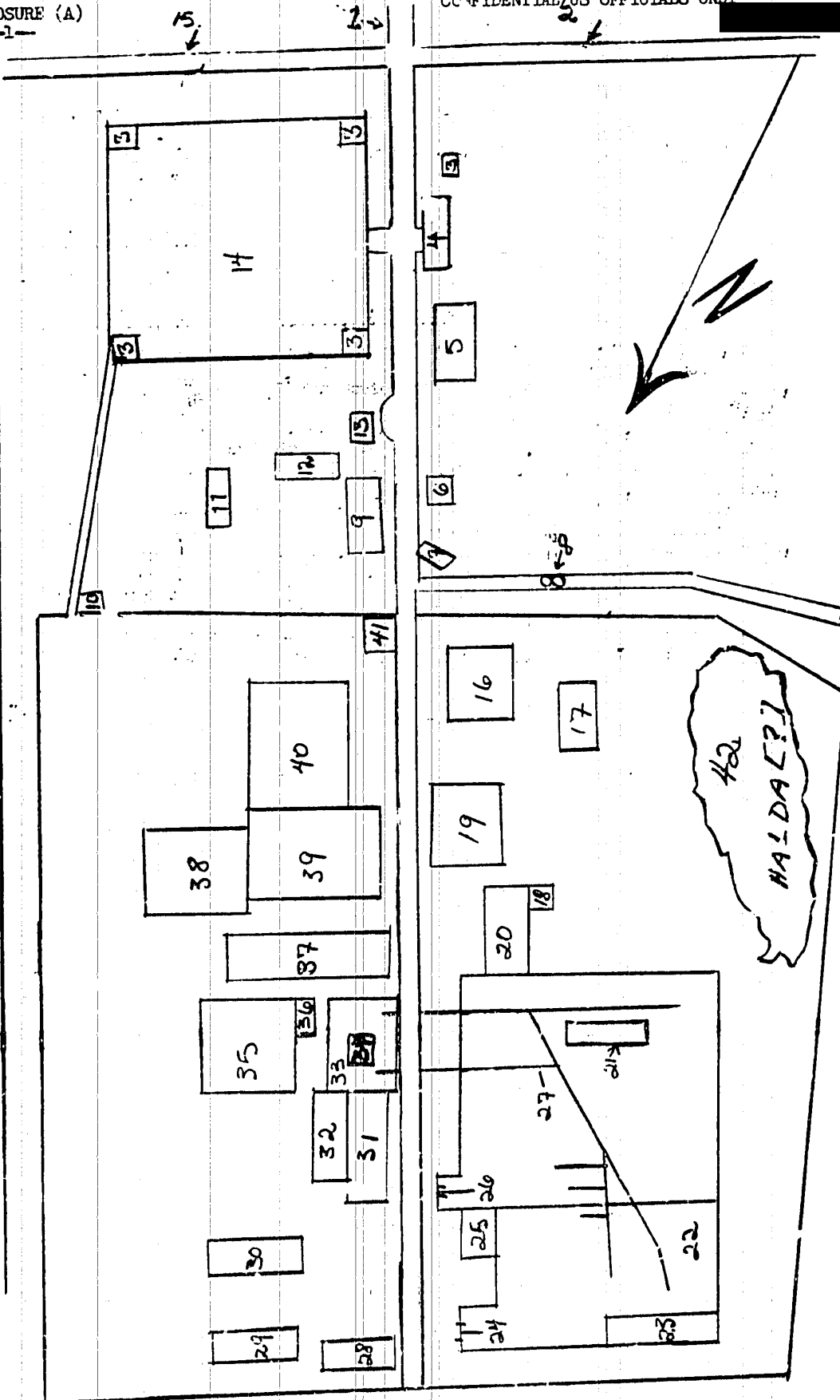
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ENCLOSURE (A)  
Page -1-

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'ROVNOST I' URANIUM ORE PIT.



ENCLOSURE (A)  
Page -2-

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Legend, Enclosure A: Sketch-map of Rovnost I:

1. Road from Nove Mesto to Jachymov.
2. Road from Nove Mesto to Rovnost II pit.
3. Watch towers, and gatekeeper's house. The gatekeeper's house is about 80 meters from the nearest watch tower, is 6 meters high, and has one guard. Equipment consists of: submachine guns, light machine guns, pistols, reflector, telephone and hand grenades.
4. SNB guard house: 10 by 5 by 4 meters. (This building is about 2 meters north of the gatekeeper's house. There is a reserve generator in the guard house, in case the main electric supply should be cut off for the prison camp).
5. Firefighter depot: 12 by 5 by 6 meters. Equipment consists of two engine pumps.
6. Oil and raw oil depot.
7. Garages for workers' motorcycles.
8. Road to the Elias pit.
9. Workers' canteen and pit kitchen: 20 by 10 by 11 meters.
10. SNB guard house.
11. Lavatories, etc: not completed.
12. Garage. 20 by 10 by 7 meters. Equipment includes one bulldozer, two snow-plows, one tractor.
13. New guard house: 5 by 7 by 4 meters. To be used for workers' militia.
14. Forced labor camp: 80 by 50 meters. In this camp there are 12 wooden houses for 1200 political prisoners sentenced for more than five years each. The camp is guarded by SNB policemen from the four towers (number 3) located in the corners of the camp.
15. Road going to the cross-roads of Abtamy.
16. Depot for wood used at the pit: 25 by 20 meters.
17. Sawmill: 8 by 5 by 4 meters. This is about 10 meters west of the depot for wood. It is constantly guarded by four SNB guards and one member of the workers' militia. On each side of the installation there is a Geiger counter to check apparatus for radioactive material. The installation of the Geiger counters on either side of the gate, was for the purpose of checking the workers as they came out of the mine, so that they did not take with them any of the uranium ore.
18. Rovnost I administration building: 20 by 20 meters, and one-story high. The following offices are located in this building: Office of the Chief Engineer; Office of the Economic Administration of the mine; Shift master's flat; Office of Mining Maps; technical offices.
19. Depot for Geiger apparatus: 8 by 8 by 4 meters. This apparatus is used to measure the quality of the ore.
20. Blacksmith and welding workshops: 20 by 10 by 6 meters.
21. Plumber workshops, and electrical workshops: 15 by 5 meters. (These shops are located in the classifying station).

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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25X1A

Page -3-

22. Classification station for high quality ore.
23. Technical office for the classification station.
24. Loading ramp. This ramp is used for clean ore, called smolka.
25. Building material depot ( for bricks, lime, etc.).
26. Loading ramp. This ramp is used for loading ore of lower quality.
27. Classification station for lower quality ore. This station is equipped with drums for the unloading of the ore cars.
28. Office of the Chief Mining Foreman and the Shift master; 30 by 10 by 4 meters. This also houses the geological station.
29. Tool depot: 30 by 15 by 6 meters.
30. New transformer station: 25 by 12 by 8 meters. This building was not completed as of September 1953.
31. Lamp depot, boiler house, bathroom, dressing room: 30 by 10 by 10 meters. There are three kettles located in the boiler house.
32. Joiner's workshop: 15 by 6 by 5 meters. This shop is connected to the eastern side of the boiler house.
33. Office of the hoist foreman, production foreman, first-aid: 15 by 15 by 10 meters. The shaft is located in this building.
34. Shaft and head frame.
35. Electrical transformer, hoist mechanism, and compressors: 20 by 20 by 10 meters.
36. Firefighters depot: 8 by 5 by 3 meters. Equipment consists of one fire engine.
37. Moving crane located in the corner formed by the locksmith's shop and the transformer station. The crane is 2 meters from either shop. It moves in an area 40 by 8 meters.
38. Main transformer station: 15 by 12 by 8 meters.
39. Locksmith workshops: 30 by 12 meters, and one story high. This building is connected on its southern side to the building for compressors (40).
40. Building for compressors: 20 by 20 by 8 meters. In this building there are two turbo-compressors, and six regular compressors. In the west corner are the transformers for the compressors.
41. Guard house.

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